

Message Text

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41

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 101138Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5254

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ALGIERS 2395

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, AG

SUBJECT: REGIME BEGINS CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT CONSTITUTION

1. ALGERIAN PRESS OCT 10 CARRIES BREIF ANNOUNCEMENT THAT COUNCILS OF THE REVOLUTION AND OF MINISTERS BEGAN CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT CONSTITUTION OCT 9. NO FURTHER DETAILS GIVEN. THIS WAS FIRST ANNOUNCED MEETING OF COUNCILS SINCE JUNE.

2. ANNOUNCEMENT HAS BEEN PRECEDED BY MUCH SPECULATION AND BY REGIRDING OF FLN LOINS FOR NEW PHASE OF POLITICAL MILITANCY. DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY HAS BEEN SPECULATING THAT LACK OF ANNOUNCED PROGRESS ON CONSTITUTION SUGGESTED CONFLICT OVER DOCUMENT IN HIGH REGIME PLACES, AND AS USUAL, RUMORS OF DISAFFECTION OF MAJOR FIGURES, NOTABLY FON MIN BOUTEFLIKA, HAVE ABOUNDED. ALGERIAN SOURCES HAVE SUGGESTED THAT ACTION ON CONSTITUTION WILL BE RAPID; FLN CELL LEADER IN ALGIERS BELIEVES THAT DOCUMENT WILL BE PUT TO REFERENDUM NOV 20.

3. MEANWHILE, PRESS HAS BEGUN NEW CAMPAIGN STRESSING FLN ACTIVITY. PARTY IS HOLDING NEW SERIES OF MEETINGS THROUGHOUT COUNTRY AIMED AT DEEPENING STILL FURTHER POPULAR UNDERSTANDING OF NATIONAL CHARTER AND AT REVAMPING PARTY'S ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE. COOPERATION BETWEEN FLN AND NATIONAL TRADE UNION (UGTA), WHICH WILL BE HOLDING

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WORKER ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS NEXT MONTH, ALSO EMPHASIZED.

5. FLN SOURCE DID SAY THAT STRONG PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM WWOULD CONTINUE (THERE HAD BEEN SOME SPECULATION THAT BOUMEDIENE WOULD RUN COUNTRY AS FLN SECY GEN RATHER THAN AS PRESIDENT), AND THAT THERE WOULD BE PRIME MINISTER IN NEW ORDER. WHETHER OR NOT CABINET WOULD BE CHOSEN FROM PARLIAMENT, SOURCE SAID, WAS STILL OPEN QUESTION.

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Message Attributes

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